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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/924,590

08/09/2001

Hideko Kagimasa

ASA-1019

3005

24956

7590

07/15/2004

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/924,590	KAGIMASA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Maikhanh Nguyen	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 2000-38490.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

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Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/09/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: original application filed 08/09/2001; IDS filed 08/09/2001.
2. Claims 1-6 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Onodera et al.** (U.S. 5,640, 544 – issued 06/1977).

As to independent claim 1, Onodera teaches a document information management method for opening document information to a plurality of users (*e.g., a document management system ... displaying on the screen document data requested by the user; Abstract*), comprising the steps of:

- managing each of the document information in an editable form and in a reference-only form (*e.g., a document data display apparatus for producing a command to read document data request by a user of the computer and displaying the read document data on the display screen ... The document data writing controller is utilized by the communication*

processing apparatus during writing, and the document data reading controller is utilized by the document data request processing apparatus during reading; col.3, lines 30-53);

- offering the document information in the editable form to users desiring updating of the document information (*e.g., a write request to write the read document data into the storage apparatus is issued ... Upon reception of the write request ... the document data writing controller effects writing of the document data; col.4, lines 8-17*); and

While teaching updating the document information, Onodera does not explicitly teach tracing and managing the utilization state of the document information when the document information is updated.

Onodera, however, discloses *the communication processing apparatus 203 issues a write end notification to the document data writing controller ... The document data writing controller receives the write end notification and effects an end to the write process (col.4, lines 27-31).*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to apply Onodera's teaching for "tracing and managing the utilization state of the document information when the document information is updated" because it would have provided the capability for efficiently controlling writing and reading operation of the document information.

As to dependent claim 2, Onodera teaches the document information is offered in the editable form to users desiring updating of the document information, information of an updating party of the document information is notified to a creator of the document information (*col.4, lines 8-17 and 26-31*).

As to dependent claim 3, Onodera teaches the document information is updated, the document information after updating is sent to a creator of the document information (*Fig. 2 and associated text*).

As to dependent claim 4, Onodera teaches commentary information made by a creator of the document information is notified to an updating party of the document (*col. 4, lines 26-50*).

As to dependent claim 5, Onodera teaches the document information is updated and a subsequent utilization state of the document information is traced and managed, utilization of the document information is limited unless the document information is updated within a predetermined period of time (*col. 4, lines 26-31 and col. 4, line 56-col. 5, line 9*).

As to independent claim 6, the rejection of claim 1 above is incorporated herein in full. Claim 6, however, further recites " offering the document information in the reference-only form to users desiring to look up the document information."

Onodera teaches offering the document information in the reference-only form to users desiring to look up the document information (*e.g., a document data display apparatus 201 for producing a command to read document data requested by the user of the computer and displaying the read document data on the display screen ... reading function to deliver a document data request; col. 3, lines 54-60*).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Grim, III et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,438,548	issued: Aug. 20, 2002
MacLean et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,505,219	issued: Jan. 07, 2003
Lin et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,610,104	issued: Aug. 26, 2003
Sato et al.	U.S Patent No. 6,757,871	issued: Jun. 29, 2004

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-0092. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Maikhanh Nguyen
July 12, 2004


JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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